

# THE MISUSE OF RITALIN

Ritalin is a drug prescribed annually to about 2.4 million kids who have attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADD/ADHD). It has a calming effect on these children, helping them concentrate and focus. However, Ritalin is now misused by some teenagers to get a high similar to cocaine.

## **The Misuse of Ritalin:**

- Prescribed pills are stockpiled and used by the child, a friend or sold illegally.
- The pills are crushed with larger doses delivering a “jolt” like that of cocaine or crack.
- The effects from a single dose last 3-4 hours.
- Nicknames include “Vitamin R” or “R-ball.”

## **Effects of Misusing Ritalin:**

- Staying awake late at night.
- Excitability and impulsiveness.
- Impaired judgment and hypersexuality.
- Extreme agitation, tremors and muscle twitching.
- Loss of appetite.
- Fevers, convulsions and headaches.
- Manic symptoms, including excessive spending.
- High doses can cause paranoia, hallucinations and even heart and brain damage.

***Parents of children prescribed Ritalin,  
please make sure your child is taking  
the prescription properly.***

**Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Abuse Clearinghouse**

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